

# Unitarian Universalist Church *of Greensboro*



## UU News

Monthly Newsletter of  
The Unitarian Universalist Church of Greensboro

An Intentional Liberal Religious Community September, 2012

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### Greetings!,

Welcome to the September edition of our church Newsletter! It is Back to School month for everybody! Check out all the great opportunities for everyone to learn something new at UUCG this fall.

If you have any submissions for the newsletter or questions for the editor, please send them to [commuucg@bellsouth.net](mailto:commuucg@bellsouth.net).

Katie  
Newsletter Editor



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## Liberal Religious Community

### ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS CHURCH

Distinctions of power, privilege, and estate, which apply outside these doors, do not apply within them. Women, men, and children; persons of any color, culture, age, ability, economic status, or affectional orientation; skeptics and those pursuing common or unorthodox religious paths...

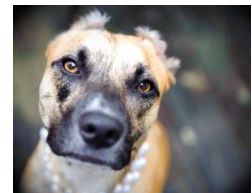
**All Are Welcome Here!**



## Worship Services, Join us for Service each Sunday

September 2 **Susie's Story: What we can learn from a dog** Dan Kelly

Can we learn anything about how we treat each other by the way we treat our animals? Susie, a loveable mixed breed dog, will be with us in church today. Come and hear the miraculous story of her journey from rescue and recovery from physical abuse through the emotional trauma of trusting humans again to her current life as an emissary to children's wards and burn units in hospitals. Susie's case has also inspired the first change in animal protection laws in NC in one hundred years stiffening the penalties for animal cruelty. Dan will also be showing us a clip from his soon to be released movie "Susie".



September 9 **Water Communion** Rev. Posa

Please remember to bring water you have collected from your travels this summer. This is an All Ages Service.

September 16 **Stepping Towards Reconciliation** Rev. Posa

September 23 **Life Calls Us On** Rev. Jason Shelton

September 30 **John Murry Sailed Over the Ocean** Rev. Posa

This is an All Ages Service.



*Reconciliation requires changes of heart and spirit, as well as social and economic change. It requires symbolic as well as practical action.*

- Malcolm Fraser

Forgiveness and reconciliation are classic spiritual themes. Jews engage the work of forgiveness every year, of course, at the High Holy Days (coming this year in the last half of September), but it's a rich topic for any religious tradition. Countless writers and thinkers have tackled these themes. One common and helpful perspective on forgiveness comes from theologian Carter Heyward, who explains, "Forgiveness is the letting go of resentment over what has been done in order to get on with life."

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser highlights reconciliation in his quote that began this article. He was referring to efforts to repair the economic and social mistrust Australia's government had developed with its aboriginal communities. His point, though, applies to interpersonal situations as well as political ones. Reconciling damaged relationships requires interior work, emotional and spiritual self-reflection, as well as tangible, practical promises to re-engage the relationships in more healthy ways. The self-reflection is the "letting go" that Carter Heyward named; the promises of how one will re-engage is the "getting on with life." Both are needed to open the doors of forgiveness, through which we must walk together to reconcile with one another.

Heyward names several resources "through which forgiveness may become more nearly possible." One is the ability to be honest with ourselves. "Emotional honesty," she explains, "secures our capacities to reflect on our experiences of violence and pain, whether as those wounded or those who have inflicted the injury."

Here at UUCG, many of you have been asking me about what forgiveness and reconciliation might look like in a tangible way. For some, there is an issue or person in your own life who has done wrong by you, or by whom you have done wrong. For others, the reconciliation sought is within our church. Some still feel lingering tensions within themselves, or between themselves and other church members, over past conflicts.

Reconciliation is complex work, and trying to rush through it will do no one any good. Nonetheless, the time is ripe for us to engage the work toward reconciliation. Of course, forgiveness is necessary before reconciliation can occur, and even before that, we must be honest with ourselves, and with that which is ultimate for each of us.

So as we approach the High Holy Days this month, let us be inspired by our Jewish sisters and brothers to begin this work toward forgiveness and reconciliation. On Sunday, Sept. 16, our worship service will be different. I will preach on these themes, but there will also be an opportunity for you to reflect on the value of forgiveness in your life now: your need to forgive another, and your need to be forgiven. You will be invited to share, in writing - anonymously or not, your choice - the forgiveness you would seek to give and receive. This is a first step, and I will follow up individually with you (ONLY if you identify yourself, which is optional) in the weeks after this worship. We will also return to these themes in worship, at least twice more in future months, to explore the next steps for this work of forgiveness and reconciliation.

I don't know about you, but transitions for me have often been initially difficult, but in the end, almost always welcome. As I write to you (the evening of August 28), I realize I have lived in North Carolina for exactly one month and two days (except for when I was a kid, spending summers with my grandparents in Hendersonville). One month and two days ago, I joined my husband, Tom Dowling, who moved here exactly 5 months ago to join Wake Forest University as the Director of Technologies (he's a librarian). I came with our 3 cats (cranky Nutmeg, a###hole/sweetheart Edgar, and perpetual kitten Lulu) and our elderly dog, Ginger, and we've been camped out in Tom's temporary apartment, looking forward to the next chapter in our lives.



For me, that chapter began two weeks ago, when Eric and Charlotte asked me to partner with them (and you) to support and build UUCG's LRE program. Who am I? I come to you from 1st UU Church, Columbus OH as someone who grew up unchurched. I only sought out a church when my daughter, Audrey, started being proselytized to by her very best friend, Ruthie-in Kindergarten. Not only did Audrey have nothing in her toolbox, she didn't even have any tools-and worst of all (for me), I didn't know my kid needed "tools." Tom and I certainly didn't, growing up! So our journey began: Audrey took part in Sunday School each year, and I was one of her teachers. Each year, I learned a new curriculum, moving up each year with her, until I became an OWL educator, and that's where I found my "niche." So for the last number of years, I've taught 8th Grade OWL and have been a team mentor.

My family's "next chapter" began in another way last weekend, when Tom and I delivered Lulu to our daughter, Audrey, at her first-ever apartment in Columbus. That's where our only kiddo will be spending a second year in the pre-professional program as a dancer at BalletMet. As I finish this, I hear the rain pouring down, and it makes me want to say something wise (as a Seattle girl). But imparting wisdom has never been my forte. I'm a practical girl. So, look for the Sunday School registration table these next few weeks. AND COME BY AND SAY "HI!"

Cindy Dillard  
RE Coordinator

## Expressions and Pot-Luck

Expressions is back! Join us as we explore the connections between art and spirituality. 7pm every Wednesday.

Sept. 5- **CORE**- sketches

Sept. 12- **Ed Shepherd**- crystal bowls

Sept. 19- **Vance Archer**- duet

Sept. 26- TBA

Each Wednesday at 6pm, please also join us for a **pot-luck dinner**. Bring a dish to share and your own plates and flatware.



## From the Board President Charlotte Hamlin



"For everything, there is a season," and your board is working hard this fall to create a bright future for UUCG. At its August meeting following a planning retreat, the board set five priority goals for the 2012-13 year: 1) Implement New Organizational Structure, (proposed new board committees), and review/update policies; 2) Ministry: Oversee the Process of Securing a Minister for 2013-14; 3) Financial Stability: leadership and policies for long term financial strength and maintenance needs; 4) Visioning: develop a Vision statement linked with strategic planning; and 5) Membership: work with Governance Task Force to review membership expectations and involvement. Thanks to all who agreed to serve on various Committees and Teams, and to Gay Cheney, new member of the Committee on Leadership Development.

The board is launching a broad strategic planning process with three part workshops led by Elaine Stover, an organizational consultant and UUCG member. We are looking for at least 25 people for the workshops taking place Tuesday evenings from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. (with food!): Sept. 25 (Mapping A Practical Vision), Oct. 23 (Discerning Underlying Contradictions), and Nov. 27 (Setting Strategic Directions). The report will be the basis for a five year plan and be valuable in the ministerial search in the spring. WE NEED YOUR VISION OF WHAT UUCG CAN BE AND HOW TO ACHIEVE IT! Please register to take part in the three strategic planning workshops to shape UUCG's future. Congregational updates will take place throughout the fall.

The search for a Minister for 2013-14 is a board priority. Having decided last spring UUCG is not ready to search for a Settled Minister, the board is discussing two other ministry models with an April 1st deadline: a) Interim Minister- board search for a second Interim Minister to serve 1 - 2 years, or b) a Developmental Minister where the UUA Transitions Office Director identifies a "match " between an applicant congregation which identifies long-standing concerns and systemic issues and a minister with relevant skills and experience to address those concerns over 3 -5 year period or longer. Board members are now developing materials to assist in deciding which search process to pursue. There will be an Information Forum about search options after church on Oct. 7th followed by a congregational meeting on Oct. 21st.

Board meetings now take place the third TUESDAY of the month in the Sanctuary from 7 - 9 p.m. We welcome guests at the next meeting on Sept. 19th when we will be considering a number of important questions. I welcome your questions, ideas, concerns and suggestions (chamlin1939@gmail.com) about ways to create a caring, vibrant church.

## Ministry Notes



### 1) **Worship in September**

- This month has 5 Sunday worships, and each one of them will have a unique aspect to it.
- Sept. 2: UUCG member Dan Kelly will share the story of **Susie**, the abused dog who galvanized the movement for greater animal protection in North Carolina - and Susie will be with us in the sanctuary.
- Sept. 9: **Water Communion** will be held, an annual UU tradition of gathering together waters from places that have deep significance for us. Everyone is invited to bring a small sample of water to share; we'll also provide "symbolic" water for those without actual waters from the place. This will also be a Worship for All Ages, so our children and youth are invited to join us for the entire service.
- Sept. 16: We will engage the subject of forgiveness in an interactive way. (See the minister's column near the top of this newsletter for more details.)
- Sept. 23: We will welcome **Rev. Jason Shelton**, music minister at First UU Church, Nashville to our pulpit. If his name looks familiar, you've probably seen it in our green hymnal - he wrote the hymns "Standing on the Side of Love" and "The Fire of Commitment," among others.
- Sept. 30: We celebrate a significant event in UU history: it is the anniversary of the first Universalist sermon ever preached in America by John Murray, who later became the founder of the Universalist church. This is an inspiring story, accessible for people of all ages, so we will once again invite children to stay in the sanctuary throughout worship. (Both Worship for All Ages, on the 9th and the 30th, will be re-structured from our usual worship format, to make them more child-friendly.)



### 2) **Changes to RE**

- This year, we are changing the format of our Religious Education program for children and youth - and for adults. Based on the findings of the RE Assessment conducted this past Spring, we are following the advice that arose out of those findings to move the time that we offer Children's RE classes; instead of RE during worship, we will offer classes before worship, from 9:30-10:30 AM on Sundays, starting Sept. 16 (the Sunday after Water Communion). I will also offer an Adult RE class at this time, in the sanctuary, on themes from the American history of Unitarianism and Universalism. We will also offer programming for our children during worship, in a different format than the morning classes. and, we will have an additional Adult RE offering on Thursday evenings, starting on Sept. 13. (See the column on Adult RE, elsewhere in this newsletter, for more info.) We are still looking for a few teachers for this year. If this is an area of church life you are interested in, please contact Rev. Eric Posa at [ericposa@gmail.com](mailto:ericposa@gmail.com) or (336)508-7568. **Teacher training will be Sat., Sept. 8 at the church, from 9AM-1PM; please join us!**

### 3) **New Direction for Future Ministry?**

- A few months ago, our board, recognizing challenges to entering a formal search for a new settled ministry, voted to delay formation of a search committee. I absolutely concur this was the right decision, but with settling a new minister in 2013 no longer being feasible, it means we have to look for other options going forward for professional ministry. One option is to bring in a second interim minister, starting in August 2013. This is not uncommon; several UU congregations each year bring in a 2nd interim for various reasons, and find it works well. As I wrote in the June 2012 newsletter, "I [recently] learned more about a new option, a new model for ministry in the UUA, known as Developmental Ministry. A Developmental Minister works with a congregation on a particular long-term issue facing that specific congregation, with the issue or focus identified by congregational leadership. This minister serves for a defined period of time, but longer than an interim minister - 3-5 years. Though hired by the board during this time, the congregation will have the option, as the Developmental Ministry period comes to an end, of calling that Developmental Minister to remain as the next settled minister."

The time is now approaching for a decision about these options to be made. The board is seriously considering a congregational vote on this issue. That decision will be finalized at its September board meeting, but a tentative date for a possible congregational meeting has been identified: **Sun., Oct. 21**, immediately following worship. (A congregational forum to answer questions will also be scheduled, possibly after worship on Oct. 7.) Please pencil these dates into your calendars; we will notify the congregation ASAP after the Sept. board mtg., when these dates will be confirmed or changed.

## Adult Religious Education

This fall at UUCG we will have a several Adult Religious Education offerings Sunday mornings and Thursday nights. The Sunday classes, beginning on September 16 and running until November 21, will start at 9:30 and last about an hour. Thursday night's classes, September 20 through November 15, will begin at 7:00 and last about 90 minutes.



Sunday mornings Reverend Posa will lead a series of classes on the **history of Unitarian Universalism** in America. Each week class will open with a short video introduction leading to discussion.

**Compassionate Communication** will have practice sessions monthly on Sundays and Thursdays. Our September Compassionate Communication practices will center around Expressing Anger Fully. Sessions start at 9:00 on Sundays and 7:00 on Thursdays. Participants for these sessions should have already completed an introduction to Compassionate Communication. If you are interested in learning more, or plan on attending the practice, please contact Sue Beck.

Thursday nights a team consisting of Steve Pearsall, Wynn Perkins, Ken Knight, and Lauren Houck will rotate leading a series of classes using **Spirit of Life** as their unifying theme. The Spirit of Life program is part of the Tapestry of Faith program series for adults. As a whole and in each of its individual programs, the Tapestry of Faith series weaves Unitarian Universalist values, principles, and sources together with four strands of religious growth: faith development, spiritual development, ethical development, and Unitarian Universalist identity. The workshops in Spirit of Life address all of these strands, yet the program focuses primarily on Unitarian Universalists' spiritual development. The nine week class consists of:

- Spirit Of Life: Exploring Spirituality for Unitarian Universalists
- Sing In My Heart: Celebrations and Rituals
- The Stirrings Of Compassion: Caring For One Another
- Blow In the Wind, Rise In The Sea: Nature And Spirit
- Move In the Hand: Living Our Spirituality in Our Day-To-Day Lives
- Giving Life the Shape Of Justice: The Spirituality Of Working For Change
- Roots Hold Me Close: Tradition, Teachers, and Spiritual Formation
- Wings Set Me Free: Hopes, Dreams, and Expanding Vision
- Come To Us: Closing and Continuing On

If you are interested in the Thursday night class and would like childcare, please contact Steve Pearsall so we can plan appropriately.

In addition to these two classes, our leadership training series will continue with a half day class on Saturday November 10 from 9:00-1:00. The workshop is a combination of two workshops taken from the Tapestry of Faith program entitled **Harvest the Power**.  
Power and Authority: This workshop distinguishes between power and authority, and between

leadership and management. The group explores the implicit and explicit expectations of a congregational leader. followed by

Turning Points and Moments of Grace: This workshop introduces the idea of turning points, or moments of grace-times when events or circumstances lead one's life in a new direction. After identifying personal turning points, participants consider conditions that can lead a congregation to a turning point. the program for the morning.

Please let the Leadership Training Team (Rev. Posa, Lonnie Houck, Katie Klod, Marty Bergman, Steve Pearsall) know if you are interested in the leadership class.

## Special Concert

**Friday, October 12th at 7pm**

The Music Team is sponsoring a unique concert featuring a Norwegian musician named **Knut Erik Jensen**! He will share piano music by mostly Norwegian composers, including some of his own compositions.

On a special note, he will also share Norwegian music on the accordion and some vocal numbers. Come at 7:00 for a concert unlike any other! A love offering will be collected, and cd's will be available for sale.

Refreshments can be purchased at a nominal cost. Check him out here: [www.knuterikjensen.com](http://www.knuterikjensen.com)



## Peanut Butter Collection



**Thanks!**

Thanks to everyone at the Unitarian Universalist Church who contributed to the **40 pounds** of peanut butter and nonperishable food collected last month for the Greensboro Food Bank.

## Regular Events

**Feeding the Hungry at Urban Ministries, First Monday of each month**

On the first Monday of each month a group of volunteers from our church shop for and cook a meal for the homeless at Urban Ministries. We are in the process of building a new team to carry out this important project. If you would like to be part of the action, contact Ken Knight at [oldpeacenik@gmail.com](mailto:oldpeacenik@gmail.com) or at 288-0103.



### **Men's Night Out, Monday, Second Monday each month**

Join us at our next at Men's Night Out beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Mi Pueblo, 3911 Tinsley Drive in High Point at 6 p.m. for dinner and fellowship.

### **Ladies' Night Out, Last Monday each month**

Ladies Night Out occurs the last Monday of the month at the Saigon Restaurant at the southwest corner of High Point Rd. and Merritt Drive. It's yummy Vietnamese cuisine with delightful and revealing conversation amidst lots of laughter. We meet at 6:30 pm. Newcomers are always welcome. Coordinators Mary Davis (586-0188) or Janet Plummer (294-6364) should be contacted before 5 pm is you plan to attend.

### **Men's Night Out 2, Last Monday each month**

A second Men's Night Out is held the last Monday of each month. We will meet at Applebee's on Battleground Ave.

### **Healing Touch Circle**

A new group calling itself the "Healing Touch Circle" will offer energy healing at the church on the first and fourth Wednesdays of each month for all who wish it. We will be available from 5:00 pm until 7:00pm

. All are welcome. Please contact Bill Haney, facilitator for an appointment.

### **Food Lion food collection**

Another opportunity to help feed the hungry in Greensboro will occur on Saturday, October 13, 2012 at the Food Lion Store at 4652 West Market Street. The church will need 4 volunteers for 2 hour shifts to collect nonperishable groceries from 9a.m. to 5 p.m. for Greensboro Urban Ministry. Please contact Becky Floyd at 336-852-3592 or rfloyd2@triad.rr.com to volunteer.



### **UU Dinner Group**



Do you like to experiment with new recipes, explore novel cuisines, and share culinary discoveries with friends? If so, we encourage you to join members of the Dinner Group as we begin our third year. **The Dinner Group** is designed to bring together UUs with an interest in creating interesting dinners in collaboration with small groups of fellow UUs. Members gather four times a year in different homes to enjoy seasonal or themed dinners prepared by members themselves. In addition to the wonderful food, the 50 members of last year's group enjoyed good conversation and the opportunity to build closer

friendships with other UUs. We hope to include more members this next year.

Each dinner will include eight people, or four pairs of cooks/diners; pairs can consist of spouses, partners or friends. One pair will host the dinner and provide appetizers, bread, and beverages (wine, tea and coffee); a second pair will provide the main course; a third pair will contribute salad and a vegetable side dish; and the fourth pair will make the dessert. Over the course of the year, participants will be assigned different responsibilities and will dine with a variety of group members.

To join the UU Dinner Group, contact Dottie Borei at drvborei@gmail.com.or 852-3608.She will send each interested member or friend a survey form on hosting preferences. (Continuing members have already received a survey form.) Please sign up as early as possible. The deadline is Sunday, September 15. Exact dates for dinners will be determined by the home host, based on availability of others in their group.

## Thanks!

12 volunteers from UUCG and 4 from Hinshaw United Methodist served chili at the **Urban Ministry**. The residents were very pleased and many asked for seconds.The financial and volunteer support for this monthly event is greatly appreciated.

On 7/22 we collected \$204.00 for **Greensboro Urban Ministries**.

On 7/29 We collected \$119.50 for **Triad Adult and Pediatric Medicine**, formerly known as Heath Serve.

These agencies help of some our our neighbors who have limited resources. Thank you for your contribution.



## Last Month's Board Activities

- The board accepted a proposal from Elaine Stover to hold three sessions on establishing a

church vision, which will be open to congregants.

- Gay Chaney was approved as a new member of the Committee on Leadership Development.
- The board approved holding a congregational meeting on October 21.
- The board heard a motion to set aside a portion of the bank lease money for long term maintenance of the building by each year. The board will decide on this next month.
- The board heard a motion moving the Staff Support committee to the ministry pillar. The board will decide on this next month.
- The board group considering alternatives for future ministry. Presentations on the options and the board's preference will be given to the congregation (tentatively October 7) before the vote at the congregational meeting in October.

## Birthdays this month



Sierra Bohnsack, Anna Freundt, Martha Fowler, Alex Bohnsack, Richard Watt, Jay Cheek, Liz Harrell, Bill Haney, Joseph Adams, Retta Gray, Suzanne Deering, Tim Sherwood, Danny Glenn, Karen Schrader, Luke Perkins, Thomas Clayton, Dennis Hands, Gisela Pollak, Eric Eno, Larry Graham, Phyllis MacKenzie, Carla Taylor, Brandon Williams, Carol Schuch Dillon, Brian Rose, Melissa Tuttle, Lindsey Bergman, Amanda Williams, Angelisa Hitson, Elijah Goodfriend, Lucia Perez-Simons, Eowyn Hutchins.



## Attendance and Collection

### Worship Counts -

July 22	118 Adults	5 Children	Total 123	Collection \$1,829.00
July 29	95 Adults			Collection \$2,014.00
August 5	109 Adults	6 Children	Total 115	Collection \$2,049.00
August 12	112 Adults	11 Children	Total 123	Collection \$2,068.96
August 19	87 Adults	6 Children	Total 93	Collection \$4,327.00



## UUCG Covenant

**We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greensboro, do covenant to:**

- Promote a search for personal meaning, respecting individual truth in a community process of quest
- Speak and act with caring, courtesy and love thereby maintaining emotional, physical, and spiritual safety for all
- Support UUCG and denominational efforts with our resources
- Combat injustice while promoting equality
- Nurture our children on their spiritual journeys
- Hold ourselves to this covenant, especially during times of conflict and disagreement

## UUCG OFFICERS

Charlotte Hamlin, President  
Karen Madrone, Vice President  
Lonnie Houck, Treasurer  
Ken Williams, Secretary

[chamlin1@triad.rr.com](mailto:chamlin1@triad.rr.com)  
[kmadrone@juno.com](mailto:kmadrone@juno.com)  
[lonnie.houck@gmail.com](mailto:lonnie.houck@gmail.com)  
[williams@ncat.edu](mailto:williams@ncat.edu)

## TRUSTEES

Michelle Lee (2015)  
Stephanie Blake (2014)  
Myra Anne Geese Dean (2014)  
Steve Andrews  
(2013)  
Suzanne Deering (2015)  
Katja Brown

[nc.dogwood@yahoo.com](mailto:nc.dogwood@yahoo.com)  
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[sabrown@ieee.org](mailto:sabrown@ieee.org)

## UUCG STAFF

### **Reverend Eric Posa, Interim Minister**

Office Hours: Please call church office for appointments  
Office Phone: 856-0330, Cell: 508-7568 E-mail: [uucgminister@bellsouth.net](mailto:uucgminister@bellsouth.net)

### **Julie Hamilton, Congregational Administrator**

Office Hours: Please call church office for appointments  
Office Phone: 856-0330, Fax: 856-0384 E-mail: [uucgadmin@bellsouth.net](mailto:uucgadmin@bellsouth.net)

### **Mark Freundt, Director of Music**

Office Hours: Please call church office for appointments  
Office Phone: 856-0330, Cell: 908-1103 E-mail: [uucgdirmu@bellsouth.net](mailto:uucgdirmu@bellsouth.net)

### **Walter McCorey, Sexton**

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday (times vary based on needs).  
Cell Phone: 414-0163 (in case of building emergencies)

## Congregational Contacts

Building and Grounds	Merrit Wyatt
Care Team	Suzanne Andrews & Joy Hamlin
Communications	Katie Klod & Vance Archer
Newsletter	Katie Klod
Website	Mariella Perez-Simons
Congregational Culture Taskforce	Laura Graham
Coordinating Council	Karen Madrone
Denominational Affairs	Steve Pearsoll
Endowment Fund	Dennis Hands
Fellowship	Cindy Williams & Karen Madrone
Finance	
Cabaret Auction	Lauren Houck & Katie Klod
Governance Task Force	Hope McLean & Sharin Francis
Labyrinth	Steve Pearsall & Ken Williams
Lay Pastoral Care Associates	Janet Eley & Liz Harrell
Lifespan Religious Education (RE)	Laura Graham
Membership	Marie Houck & Vance Archer
Music	Sue Sherwood & Marilyn Clayton
Nominating	Sue Cole & Betsy Lindsey
Policies and Procedures	Michelle Lee
Social Action	
Green Sanctuary	Sue Cole, Elaine Stover
GLBTQ	Karen Madrone
Worship	Barbara Hands

